

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 ( ISO ) W

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P 201505Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1463

INFO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 0239

STATE FOR CU/EE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC RO

SUBJ: 1975-76 ROMANIAN GRADUATE STUDENT PROGRAM

REF: STATE 011107

1. EMBASSY FINDS REFTTEL PUZZLING SINCE WE THOUGHT THAT ALL WASHINGTON ELEMENTS INVOLVED ROMANIAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM RECOGNIZED THAT NO MEANINGFUL DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN ROMANIAN NOMINEES IN "GRADUATE STUDENT" OR "RESEARCHER" CATEGORIES. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER HAVING ALL ROMANIAN NOMINEES UNDER ARTICLE I, SECTION 1, OF PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES PLACED BY CIES. IN OUR VIEW, IIE WORLD-WIDE FORMS, PROCEDURES, AND REQUIREMENTS ARE NEITHER SUITABLE FOR ROMANIAN NOMINEES NOR CONSONANT WITH PROGRAM REALITIES HERE.

2. SPECIFICALLY, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT ALL ROMANIAN NOMINEES IN 1974-75 "GRADUATE STUDENT" CATEGORY WERE EITHER "TEACHERS" OR ON RESEARCH STAFF OF ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR U.S. GOR DOES NOT, AS MATTER OF PRACTICE, SELECT PERSONS WHO MEET USUAL AMERICAN DEFINITION OF "GRADUATE STUDENT" FOR FOREIGN STUDY GRANTS, PARTICULARLY TO U.S. THEREFORE, EXPECTATION OF DEPARTMENT THAT 1975-76 ROMANIAN NOMINEES IN THIS CATEGORY WILL BE "BONAFIDE" GRADUATE STUDENTS- DEFINITION OF WHICH DOES NOT EXIST IN OUR BILATERAL DOCUMENTS- IS FUTILE.

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IN ADDITION, ANY EFFORT BY THE EMBASSY TO ENFORCE OUR DEFINITION

AT THIS DATE FOR COMING PROGRAM YEAR WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE  
IMPACT ON LEVEL OF ROMANIAN PARTICIPATION. FYI: EMBASSY MEETING  
WITH ROMANIAN NOMINEES JANUARY 23 FOR ORIENTATION AND PRELIMINARY  
LANGUAGE INTERVIEWS. END FYI.

3. CU/EE DIRECTOR RICHMOND AND OTHERS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE  
EMBASSY VIEW THAT PRESENT STIPEND OF \$310 FOR THIS CATEGORY  
IS INSUFFICIENT. WE HAVE STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT THERE IS NO  
JUSTIFICATION FOR LARGE GAP BETWEEN STIPEND LEVELS FOR TWO  
CATEGORIES SINCE ASSIGNMENT TO ONE OR THE OTHER BY  
ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS.  
WE CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT DEPARTMENT  
CONSIDER "ACROSS-THE-BOARD" INCREASE IN \$310 STIPEND LEVEL.  
AT VERY LEAST, WE BELIEVE THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD GRANT STIPEND  
IN THIS CATEGORY ACCORDING TO DIFFERING COSTS INVOLVED IN EACH  
GRANTEE SITUATION.  
BARNES

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